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The Local Angle:

REGIONAL INFORMATION OFFICES

The U.S. Department of Labor operates through 10 regional offices located in major cities across the country. If you want a local angle on a news or feature story provided through this service—or have a direct news inquiry—you may contact one of the offices listed below. This listing includes the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Assistant Regional Directors for Information and the states in their regions:

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Week of August 19, 1974

LABOR SECRETARY BRENNAN'S STATEMENT
ON RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT NIXON

WASHINGTON -- Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan issued the following statement on August 8, 1974, on the resignation of President Richard Nixon:

"Today is a tragic day for America and for all of its citizens.

"For over five and a half years, President Nixon has given us outstanding leadership in both international and domestic affairs. He brought us peace with honor and strength, and he has led us toward creative and responsible solutions to many of our problems at home.

"I greet his decision to resign with great personal sadness but with the realization that this action was what he thought was best for the welfare of the country we all love.

"Vice President Ford is a capable and dedicated man, who I feel will lead our country in a strong and honorable way. He deserves the full support and confidence of all of us in the difficult task that he is about to assume.

"I pledge my support to him in assisting him in his awesome responsibilities in any way that I can."

# # #

Week of August 19, 1974

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR NEWSPAPER EDITORS

A good many workers are being lured to Alaska by stories of high paying jobs on the oil pipeline, only to find no work and great hardship when they get there.

Today, about one out of every eight Alaskans is unemployed and these residents have been promised and are getting first crack at jobs on the pipeline. We are informed that there are enough unemployed Alaskans to do most all the work needed on the project.

Anyone having special skills who think they might be needed on the pipeline, should check with the nearest office of the public employment service, which will have information on any job openings in Alaska.

No one seeking work should go to Alaska without a job commitment in writing from an employer before leaving home.

Alaska is a grand and beautiful state, but it is no place to be a stranger and stranded without a job. In the state as a whole, the cost of living is about 35 percent higher than in the rest of the country. A hamburger, for instance, costs two dollars or more and a milkshake about $1.60. Costs are even higher in Fairbanks, where, for example, it costs about $150 a month more for a one-bedroom apartment, if you can find one, than for a two-bedroom apartment in Anchorage, if you can find one, there. The one-bedroom apartment in Fairbanks, if available, rents for about $375 a month. In addition, it gets extremely cold. In the winter months, upcoming, the temperature will normally drop to 60 degrees below zero along the pipeline.

Whatever you can do through your paper to get this information to the workers in your community who may be considering seeking jobs in Alaska will be of great service in preventing possible hardships for them and additional problems for the state of Alaska.

Thank you for your help.

Peter J. Brennan
Secretary of Labor

BLACK LABOR DEPARTMENT INTERN ASSISTING
WITH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR PROGRAM

WASHINGTON -- Rose Thornton believes people, particularly minority group members, must become more aware of their legal rights.

A federal summer intern in the U.S. Labor Department's Women's Bureau, Ms. Thornton says:

"We want women to realize that there are laws and an executive order that prohibit job discrimination."

Ms. Thornton, a 21-year-old student at the Antioch School of Law, uses her legal background in researching information to be included in proposals for the upcoming International Women's Year Program.

International Women's Year, to be held in 1975, will stress non-traditional job opportunities for women.

Ms. Thornton expresses her belief that there should be minority and youth participation in the program.

Her assignments as a writer in the Women's Bureau information office have been varied, including covering a Workshop on Economics, sponsored by the Women's Bureau, and the recent unveiling of the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial.

The Bethune Memorial, erected in honor of the distinguished educator and humanitarian, is the first honoring a black American to stand on public land in the District of Columbia.

As a participant in the Federal Summer Intern Program--designed to involve talented college students in the operations of federal agencies--Ms. Thornton says she has learned that most people, particularly minority group members, are not properly informed about their legal rights.

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After completing law school, Ms. Thornton says she would like to set up her own law practice to help others realize and take advantage of laws established for their protection and benefit.

# # #

BLACK NAMED JOB CORPS DIRECTOR
IN U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

WASHINGTON -- John H. Stetson, 54, a black, has been appointed director of the U.S. Department of Labor's Job Corps.

The appointment was announced by William H. Kolberg, assistant secretary of labor for manpower.

A native of New Orleans, Stetson was brought up in New York City. He will direct the operation of 61 Job Corps Centers, which provide job training, education and other services in residential facilities for nearly 50,000 disadvantaged youths each year.

Stetson began his government career as a chief of analytical statistics in the Air Force. He worked in the Boston and New York offices of the Labor Department's Manpower Administration before his new appointment.

Stetson's was one of five key appointments announced by Assistant Secretary Kolberg for the Manpower Administration, which has several programs with large enrollments of disadvantaged balcks.

Others were:

Don A. Balcer, 37, formerly with the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission and the Dallas and San Francisco regional offices of the Manpower Administration, community manpower programs director.

Floyd E. Edwards, 39, former regional manpower director in San Francisco, field director and manager.

Merwin S. Hans, 53, who has served in important positions with the Manpower Administration in both Kansas City and Washington, D.C., director of the Office of Work Incentive (WIN) Programs.

Larry R. Moen, 42, former director of public affairs for the Cost of Living Council, director of information.

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DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
-- 'PROBLEM FOR ALL COUNTRIES'

WASHINGTON -- Discrimination against women is a problem on which all nations whould work together, the director of the U.S. Labor Department's Women's Bureau told an inter-American conference.

Carmen R. Maymi, addressing the Conference on Nontraditional Occupations for Women of the Hemisphere, said:

"Discrimination against women is not a problem of one country against another; it is everyone's problem."

The Women's Bureau co-sponsored the conference, attended by representatives of more than 20 nations, with Rita A. Johnston, U.S. delegate to the Inter-American Commission of Women.

Ms. Johnston said women still play a relatively limited role in society, despite recent progress in obtaining nontraditional jobs. She stressed the need for international cooperation in improving the status of women.

Delegates exchanged information on effective ways to expand job opportunities for women in all nations.

A panel representing U.S. women with successful careers in education, government, unions, business and industry related their breakthrough experiences into the working world and commented on the progress of women in their respective fields.

A second panel, comprised also of women with nontraditional careers, discussed the role of organizations--government, non-government and voluntary--in promoting training and employment opportunities in nontraditional fields.

The panelists urged more women to accept leadership roles and to become aware of their legal rights.

Pearl Spindler, a panelist and chief of the Division of Legislation and Standards in the Women's Bureau, said, "It is up to women to know the

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the laws available to them and to act on these laws."

In her summary, Ms. Maymi concluded:

"Community resources coupled with federal help can move women into nontraditional jobs. Our task is to make the most of the trend toward women in nontraditional jobs and make this an acceptable way of life."

# # #

'NEW CAREERS' OPENED TO 400 DISADVANTAGED ADULTS UNDER $2 MILLION LABOR DEPARTMENT PROGRAM

NEW YORK -- Nearly 450 poor and unemployed adults in New York State will get a chance to start on new careers in education, recreation, community relations and social services.

Jobs and training in public service facilities will be offered the disadvantaged under the U.S. Department of Labor's New Careers program.

Edward W. Aponte, assistant regional director of the U.S. Labor Department for manpower, said $2,133,570 in federal funds have been set aside for projects in Mineola, Buffalo and two in New York City. Funds support the projects for periods of seven months to a year.

In Mineola, the Nassau County Office of Manpower Development Social Services will receive $100,000 in federal funds to support jobs and training of 44 persons--28 in entry-level positions and upgrade 16 "New Careerists."

In Buffalo, the City of Buffalo will receive $300,000 for 45 positions.

In New York City, two projects, sponsored by the Office of the Mayor, Human Resources Administration, will receive $1,733,570 for jobs and training of 371.

The New Careers program seeks to relieve critical national shortages of professional service personnel in health, education and public welfare by opening up jobs with built-in advancement opportunitites to unemployed adult

They are trained as aides to librarians, teachers, nurses, medical technicians, social workers and police officers.

They free professionals from performing tasks that do not challenge their full professional capabilities. At the same time, "New Careerists" receive needed training and education enabling them to move up the career ladder to positions which demand greater skill and higher wages.

To be eligible, an individual must be 22 years old, unemployed and generally come a family whose income is below the poverty line as defined by the Manpower Administration.

# # #

Week of August 19, 1974

LABOR DEPARTMENT FINDS 357,000 WORKERS
UNDERPAID $96.6 MILLION IN FISCAL YEAR

WASHINGTON -- Nearly $96.[illegible]ion in back wages was found due to about 357,000 underpaid workers in the [illegible]74 fiscal year as the result of Labor Department enforcement of wage and hour laws, Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan announced.

In the 1973 fiscal year, 365,000 underpaid employees were found to be due about $84.6 million.

About 262,000 underpaid employees received a total of $50 million in back wages in fiscal 1974, as compared to $40.1 million restored to 259,000 workers in fiscal 1973.

Brennan said:

"The figures show two things--that employees are becoming increasingly aware of their rights on the job and that the wage and hour laws designed to protect them are being enforced."

The Wage and Hour Division of the Department's Employment Standards Administration conducts its enforcement activities through the work of more than 900 compliance officers, who investigate for wage and hour compliance under the following laws:

-- The Fair Labor Standards Act, which sets minimum wage, overtime and child labor standards.

-- The Equal Pay Act, which requires that men and women performing substantially equal work in the same establishment receive the same pay.

-- The Age Discrimination in Employment Act, which protects workers aged 40 to 65 years from job discrimination because of age.

(MORE)

-- The Federal Wage Garnishment Law, which limits the amount which can be garnished from an employee's paycheck to 25 percent of "disposable earnings"-- income remaining after mandatory tax and Social Security deductions.

-- The Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act.

-- A number of laws protecting employees who work on federally-funded contracts.

The following charts compare the 1973 and 1974 fiscal year enforcement statistics. While 7,275 fewer employees were found underpaid in 1974 than the previous year, wages found due increased by $12 million.

In addition, actual payment of back wages increased by nearly $10 million to about 2,000 more workers.

FISCAL 1974

	Total Underpayments	Workers Owed	Income Restored	Workers Paid
FLSA minimum wage	$18,251,688	119,561	$10,205,509	87,723
overtime	46,304,358	207,629	27,448,905	158,100
Govt. Contracts minimum wage	4,234,978	18,809	2,504,920	11,238
overtime	812,170	6,783	397,071	3,675
Equal Pay	20,623,830	32,792	6,841,443	16,768
Age Discrimination	6,315,484	1,648	2,507,448	637
Garnishment	27,675	91	21,054	71
TOTAL	$96,570,183	357,278	$49,926,350	261,632

(More)

FISCAL 1973

	Total Underpayments	Workers Owed	Income Restored	Workers Paid
FLSA minimum wage overtime	$21,182,674 41,891,011	150,984 199,693	$9,593,056 24,180,748	95,872 153,945
Govt. Contracts minimum wage overtime	1,121,083 476,930	6,537 4,106	738,897 304,215	5,791 3,326
Equal Pay	18,005,582	29,618	4,626,251	17,331
Age Discrimination	1,866,226	1,031	662,324	304
Garnishment	22,930	115	20,046	99
TOTAL	$84,566,436	364,553	$40,125,537	250,692

The major reason for the difference between the total money found due to employees and the amount actually paid is employers' refusals to pay back wages in cases unsuitable for litigation by the Labor Department.

In such cases, any employee has the right to institute private and independent action for the recovery of back wages due. Substantial amounts of wages recovered by employees in this way are not reflected in the Department's statistics.

Another reason for the difference is the two-year statute of limitations which generally limits recovery of back wages to a two-year period prior to the Department's filing a complaint against an employer.

The recent $7 million equal pay settlement with American Telephone and Telegraph Co. is not included in the 1974 statistics. The settlement

(More)

was obtained through the joint efforts of the Labor and Justice Departments and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Nonmonetary benefits to workers under wage and hour laws during the last fiscal year included: the rehiring of 14 employees who had been fired because of garnishment for a single debt; general assistance to 2,744 older workers; reevaluation of 84,207 jobs to provide hiring opportunities for older workers, and the correction of 14,700 child labor violations.

Note: Total number of employees with wages restored under individual laws exceeds actual total person counted under all laws because some workers found to be underpaid in violation of two or more requirements.

# # #

OSHA TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS
ON FARM MACHINE GUARDING RULES

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Labor will conduct hearings on proposed rules to protect farm workers from farm machinery safety hazards.

John H. Stender, assistant secretary of labor for occupational safety and health, said the hearings were scheduled in response to numerous public comments on proposed new rules issued Feb. 8.

He said issues to be considered during the hearings include;

-- Whether a farm machinery guarding standard will improve farm safety;

-- Whether it would be necessary and feasible to retrofit existing machinery;

-- Whether full guarding is necessary or point of operation guarding of power transmission components is adequate;

-- Whether strength requirements for guards should be included;

-- Whether there are instances where a guard should not be required because of component location;

-- Whether proposed requirements for power-take-off guarding are adequate or necessary;

-- What method should be applied to prevent inadvertent turning on of electrical power;

-- Whether standard railings on cotton gins provide adequate safety and

-- What would be a reasonable effective date for the standard.

The public hearings in each city will begin with a prehearing conference at 9:30 a.m. local time to establish the order and time for presentations. The hearings will be:

-- Aug. 22, Room 216A, B, C and D, Main Labor Building, 14th Street and Constitution avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

-- Aug. 26, Sheraton Inn-Madison Gateway, Expo Room, 706 John Nolen Dr., Madison, Wis.

(More)

-- Aug. 29, Holiday Inn Central, 2247 East Van Buren, Phoenix, Ariz.

-- Sept. 4, Skirvin Plaza Hotel, Venetian Room, Park Avenue and Broadway, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Persons wishing to present oral statements should notify Julius Jimeno, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Room 200-MNWA, 1726 M St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20210, phone (202) 961-2248/2487. A written request to appear must be filed and should include the name and affiliation of the person wishing to appear, location of the hearing, time required, a statement of the position to be taken and evidence to be presented. An original and four copies of all documents are required. No witness may appear at more than one hearing.

* * *

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX -- JULY 1974

WASHINGTON -- The Wholesale Price Index for All Commodities rose 3.9 percent from June to July before seasonal adjustment, it was announced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor.

The increase was due to large and widespread price increases for industrial commodities and sharply higher prices for livestock, meats, and grains.

The index for industrial commodities rose 2.7 percent with the metals, fuels, machinery, and chemicals groups accounting for about three fourths of the upward movement.

The index for farm products increased 7.2 percent and processed foods and feeds rose 6.5 percent.

On a stage of processing basis, consumer finished goods, a selection of food and nonfood commodities similar to those in the commodity component of the Consumer Price Index, moved up 3.1 percent. Producer finished goods rose 2 percent.

Of the 15 major commodity groups measured by the Wholesale Price Index, 14 increased from June to July and one was lower.

In July, the All Commodities WPI was 161.7 (1967=100), 20.4 percent above a year earlier. The industrial commodities index was 25.1 percent higher than in July 1973; the index for farm products was up 4.3 percent and that for processed foods and feeds rose 14.4 percent, over the same period.

(MORE)

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the All Commodities Wholesale Price Index moved up 3.7 percent, following an increase of 0.5 percent in June. The July increase was the largest since August 1973 when there was an unusually sharp rise in farm and food prices. The industrial commodities index continued to rise sharply--2.7 percent. The July increase for industrials compares with a 2.2 percent rise in June and an average monthly rise of 2.8 percent in March, April and May. The index for farm products and processed foods and feeds increased 6.4 percent following four consecutive monthly decreases. Prices of farm products averaged 7.8 percent higher in July and those for processed foods and feeds 5.5 percent.

Consumer foods rose 3.6 percent in July following four months of decline, principally because of higher prices of meats. Processed fruits and vegetables, processed poultry, edible fats and oils, miscellaneous processed foods, and sugar and confectionery also posted significant price rises. However, milk and fresh vegetable prices declined. Consumer nonfood finished goods continued to increase at a rapid pace--1.8 percent in July. Higher prices for gasoline, beverages, and heating fuel accounted for most of the advance in the nondurable component while a contraseasonal boost in prices of new automobiles accounted for most of the rise in durable goods.

# # #

Note to Editors: This is the second of three columns on buying and riding bicycles.

Dear Consumer

There's More to a Bike Than the Seat

By Virginia Knauer
Special Assistant to the President
and Director
Office of Consumer Affairs
Department of Health, Education and Welfare

You can't judge a bike by its seat any more than you can judge a book by its cover.

Too many shoppers pick the wrong bicycle for themselves because they follow one rule of thumb: If the seat fits, buy it.

There are better ways of judging bikes.

Before you even start shopping, ask this key question: Will I really use my new bike or is it going to be only an expensive toy? If you're certain your bike will not just gather dust in the garage, go shopping with these points in mind:

● Buy the largest bike that feels comfortable to you; the larger the bike in relation to your build, the better your balance will be. Two measurements are important: the wheel size (26 inch or 27 inch) and the frame size (ranging from 19 to 21 inches for women and from 21 to 25 inches for men). Frame size is the distance from the point where the pedal crank fits into the frame up to the top of the tube holding the seat post. A useful guideline: As you sit on the bike with one foot on a pedal pushed 'way down, your leg should be absolutely straight.

● You can have a five- or 10-speed without turned-down handlebars if you wish. Several top manufacturers now make five- and 10-speed models with a choice of straight or turned-down handles.

● Take your choice of three seats: the pan (plastic or metal seat topped with padding and a plastic cover); the mattress (springs topped with padding and a plastic cover); the molded (hard leather or plastic molded into shape). The molded leather seat requires some breaking in, but in time it shapes itself most comfortably to your own shape.

● Some bicycle accessories you should look at: Front and rear reflectors and lights are a safety "must". So is a loud bell. A carrier is handy—consider an aluminum alloy one to fit over the rear wheel or a lightweight bag or basket to hang in front.

Note to Editors: This is the second of three columns